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Review Staff: 75/1142

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24 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: House Select Committee

1. Director Colby, accompanied by Special Counsel Mitch [redacted] and the undersigned, paid a call on Chairman Pike today. Vice Chairman McClory also attended.

2. The Director promised his cooperation in the belief that current reviews will conclude that the main thrust of U.S. intelligence activity is good, solid and trustworthy. The Chairman responded, saying he had no intention of destroying intelligence; he wants to build public and Congressional understanding and support for intelligence by "exposing" as much as possible of its nature without doing harm to proper intelligence activities.

3. The Chairman said he knew this would cause occasional conflict for us, but that a constructive approach by both sides should resolve it.

4. The Chairman said he intended to begin by concentrating on intelligence budgets. His first witness would be Elmer Staats (Comptroller General) followed by OMB Chief Lynn and then by the DCI. (Later, after separate discussions between Pike and Presidential Counsels Buchen and Hills, it was decided that the DCI would be the second witness--on 1 August.) He said he personally believed that knowledge of intelligence expenditures should be open and widespread. The Director cited reasons why one could argue the contrary.

5. The Chairman said he intended to dramatize and illuminate issues such as this by beginning their discussion in open session, carrying the subject as far as possible and making sure pros and cons of openness were discussed before moving into executive sessions.

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In this way issues will be clearly framed for eventual solution--one way or the other. (Mr. McClory indicated he did not side with the Chairman on the question of an open budget and, later in the discussion, after hearing the Director describe categories of information we felt bound to protect, Mr. McClory told the Director he thought the latter had been too free to impart secrets in recent months. The Chairman said he did not think so.)

6. The Director handed several papers to the Chairman--an exchange of correspondence concerning GAO auditing of CIA expenditures; a book of General Counsel listings of statutory matters relating to the Agency; a copy of the 11 March 1975 DCI letter to Chairman Church concerning arrangements for SSC review of Agency activities; an outline of preferred security guidelines for HSC consideration; and a copy of a secrecy agreement for proposed use by the HSC. The Director invited the Chairman and Vice Chairman to look these over and pass back to us any reactions.

7. The Chairman said "employment agreements" had already been executed by staff; FBI field investigation data had been made available to him on the staff; and a security officer is assigned on the staff. Mr. Pike quickly scanned the security guidelines and said he did "not think we were far apart."

8. Mr. Colby outlined his responsibility for protection of sources and methods and the complexity this poses in meeting far-flung requests by review staffs for "all documents and files" relating to a given topic. The preferred approach is to begin with briefings and selected, sanitized key documents which, after presentation, can lead to focussed requests for deeper, detailed studies of documents and files.

9. Throughout the conversation, it was clear that the Chairman is one who will ask a lot of "why's" with regard to conventional wisdom. He will be open-minded in listening to answers but there will be a premium on preparing solid briefing materials for the Director, particularly in those areas the Chairman intends to illuminate in open sessions with pro-and-con discussions.


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